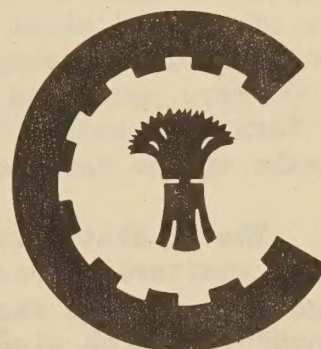
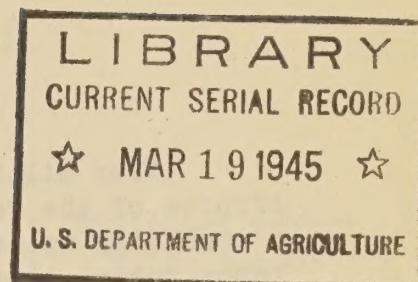


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# FARM LABOR NEEDS IN 1944



**U.S. CROP CORPS WORKERS NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT  
REGULAR FARM LABOR FORCE IN PRODUCING  
FOOD FOR FREEDOM**

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## U. S. CROP CORPS NEEDS 4,000,000 WORKERS

Four million workers will be needed in 1944 to supplement the efforts of the regular farm labor force in the production of another record crop to meet the increasing demands of war. The regular farm labor force, numbering around 8,000,000 persons, consists of all farmers and members of their families regularly employed in farm work, plus their year-round hired workers.

The 4,000,000 goal for 1944 is an increase of 500,000 over the estimated 3,500,000 workers who supplemented the regular force in 1943. Indications are that most of this increase will have to come from the ranks of women and youth, since the number of available men is not expected to be larger in 1944.

Of the estimated 4,000,000 extra workers needed this year, it is expected that about 1,200,000 will be boys and girls under 18 years of age and about 800,000 will be women. Of the 3,500,000 different workers who supplemented the regular force in 1943, about 900,000 were youth and about 600,000 were women. The youth who help with farm work become Victory Farm Volunteers, while the women workers make up the Women's Land Army.

The 48 State extension services have set up 6,150 placement offices scattered throughout the 3,000 counties. These offices are designed to aid the farmer in obtaining the necessary labor he needs in connection with planting, cultivating, and harvesting his crops. Although workers needed to supplement the regular farm labor force will be encouraged to make their own arrangements with farmers, it is expected that the extension placement offices will be called upon to recruit and place at least 2,000,000 or more of the estimated 4,000,000 workers needed.

Results of the 1943 Farm Labor program were generally satisfactory. A survey of State extension directors, made by the Federal Extension Service, shows that no appreciable loss of food occurred through lack of harvest labor. There were some crop losses, of course, but these are to be expected in any year, because of weather and other factors. It is generally believed, however, that the percentage of crop losses in 1943 was less than average.

U. S. CROP CORPS STATISTICS

1944 Goals

	: Estimated	: Estimated number
	: number	: to be placed
	: of	: through Extension
	: workers	: Farm Labor
	: needed	: offices
Estimated total number of different workers needed in 1944 to supple- ment regular farm labor force <sup>1/</sup>	4,000,000	2,000,000
Estimated number of youth (Victory Farm Volunteers) to be included in total	1,200,000	700,000
Estimated number of women (Women's Land Army) to be included in total	800,000	400,000

.....

1943 Results

	: Estimated	: Estimated number
	: number	: placed through
	: of	: Extension Farm
	: workers	: Labor offices
Estimated total number of different workers used in 1943 to supple- ment regular farm labor force <sup>1/</sup>	3,500,000	1,500,000
Estimated number of youth (Victory Farm Volunteers) included in total	900,000	400,000
Estimated number of women (Women's Land Army) included in total	600,000	250,000

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<sup>1/</sup> Regular farm labor force is used here to mean all farmers and mem-  
bers of their families regularly employed in farm work, plus year-  
round hired workers.

## MAPS INDICATE NEED FOR CROP CORPS WORKERS

In considering farm labor needs for 1944, it is necessary to know when and where extra workers will be needed to supplement the regular farm labor force, consisting of farm family members regularly employed in farm work plus year-round hired workers. The 12 maps presented on the succeeding pages -- one for each month -- are intended to indicate the time and areas of such need.

No effort has been made to show total labor needs. On the contrary, the areas indicated on these maps are those where extra workers will probably be needed to supplement the efforts of the regular farm labor force. In other words, some areas may have a heavy labor demand but may also have a supply of labor sufficient to meet this demand. These areas are not marked for special attention on the map. However, other areas that have a much smaller labor demand, expressed in terms of man-hours, but only a limited supply of on-farm labor, are indicated as serious or critical, depending upon the extent to which the supply fails to meet the demand.

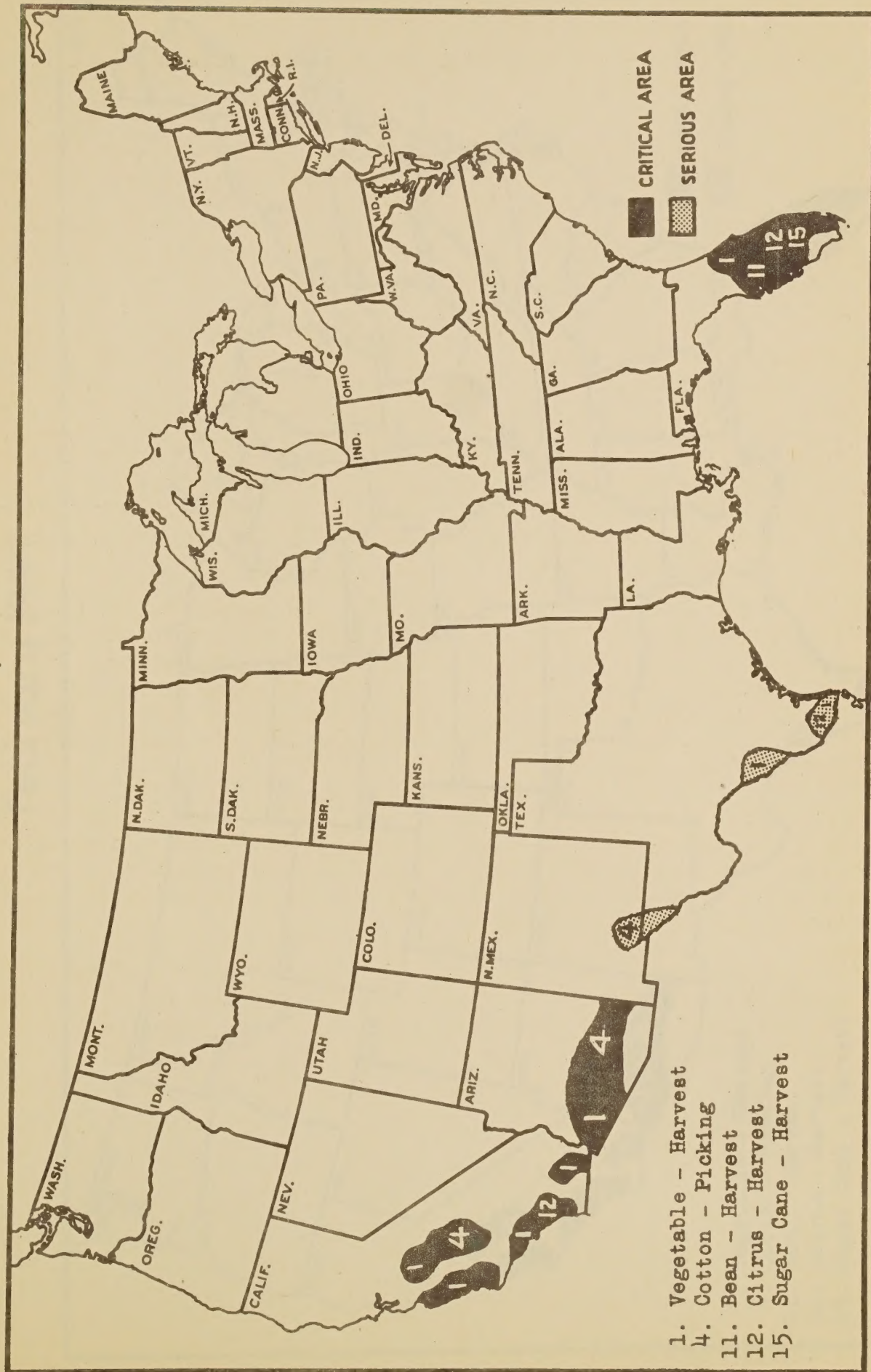
The areas in black are expected to be those in which the need for extra workers is most critical; the shaded areas represent those expected to have a serious labor problem. Areas in which the farm labor need is only moderate are included in the white portion of the maps. These estimates of farm labor needs are based on normal weather conditions. An unusual season might alter not only the time but also the extent of the need.

On a national map, it is not practical to show localized farm labor problems. Therefore, only those problems involving areas that extend into several counties are included in these maps. Information on local labor needs may be obtained from State extension offices or from county agricultural agents.

In addition to indicating the areas and months of farm labor needs, the maps also include the major crops and operations involved in the labor problem. A brief description of these operations is contained in pages 17 to 19.

# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

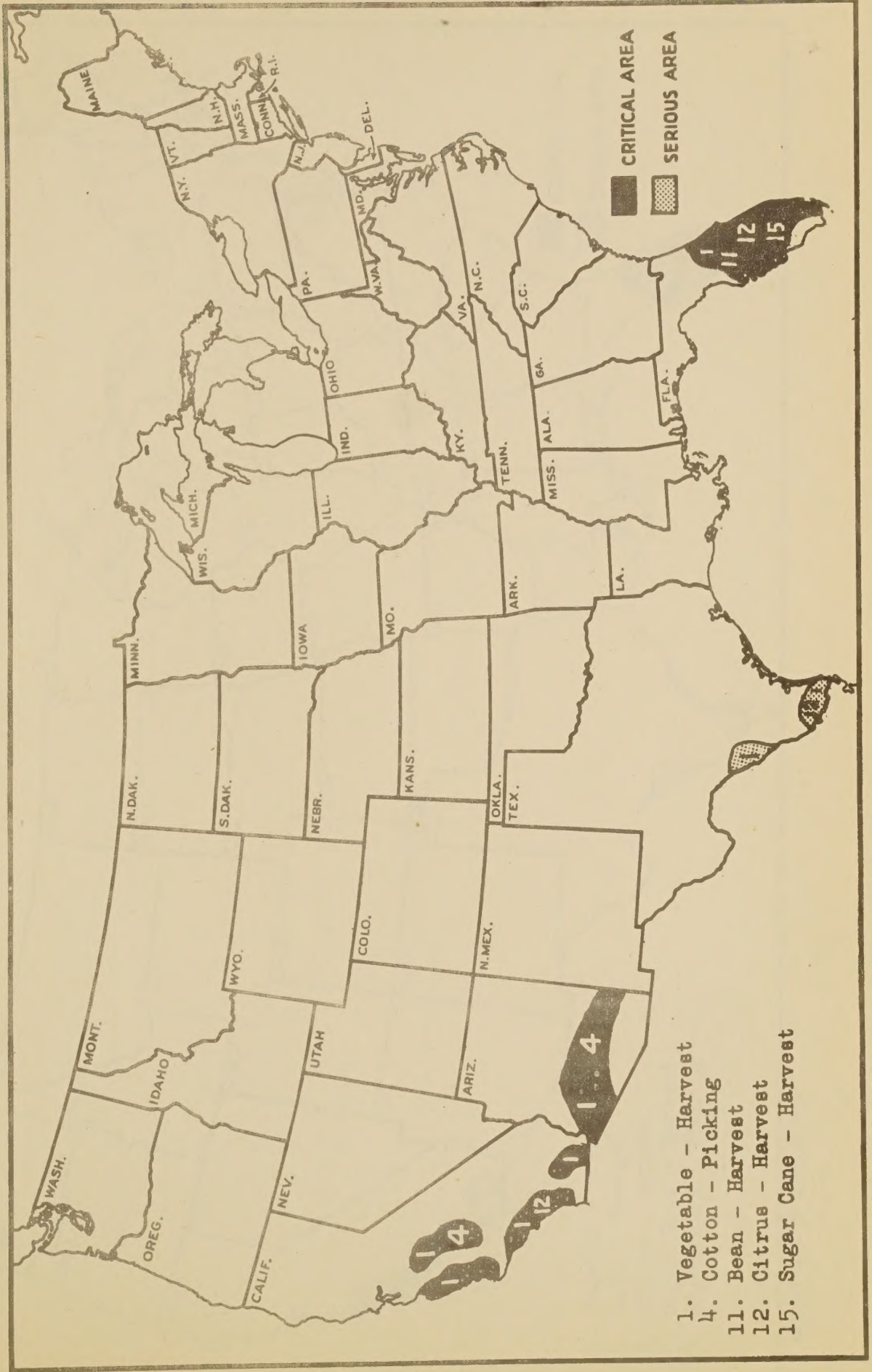
January 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

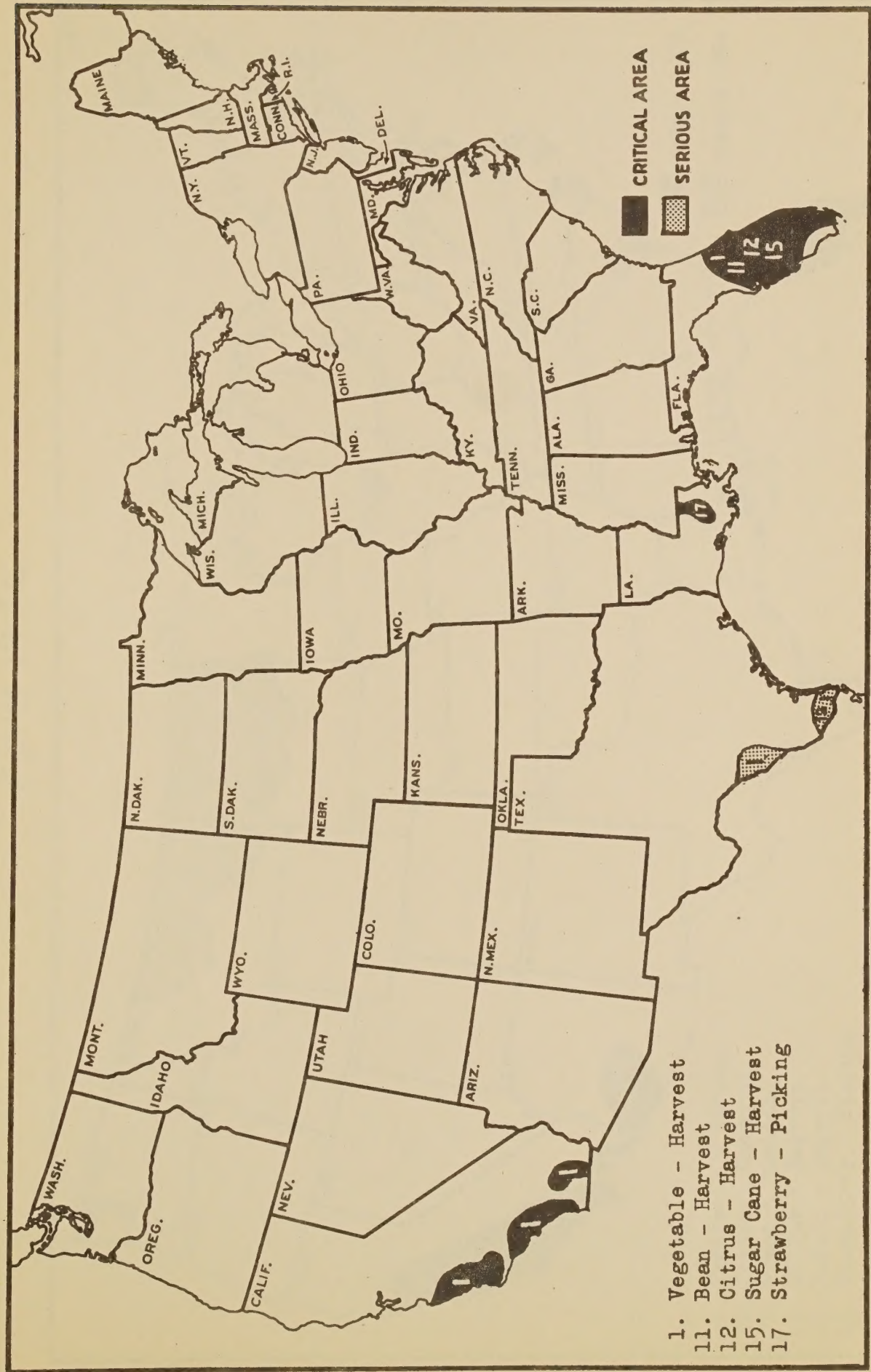
February 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

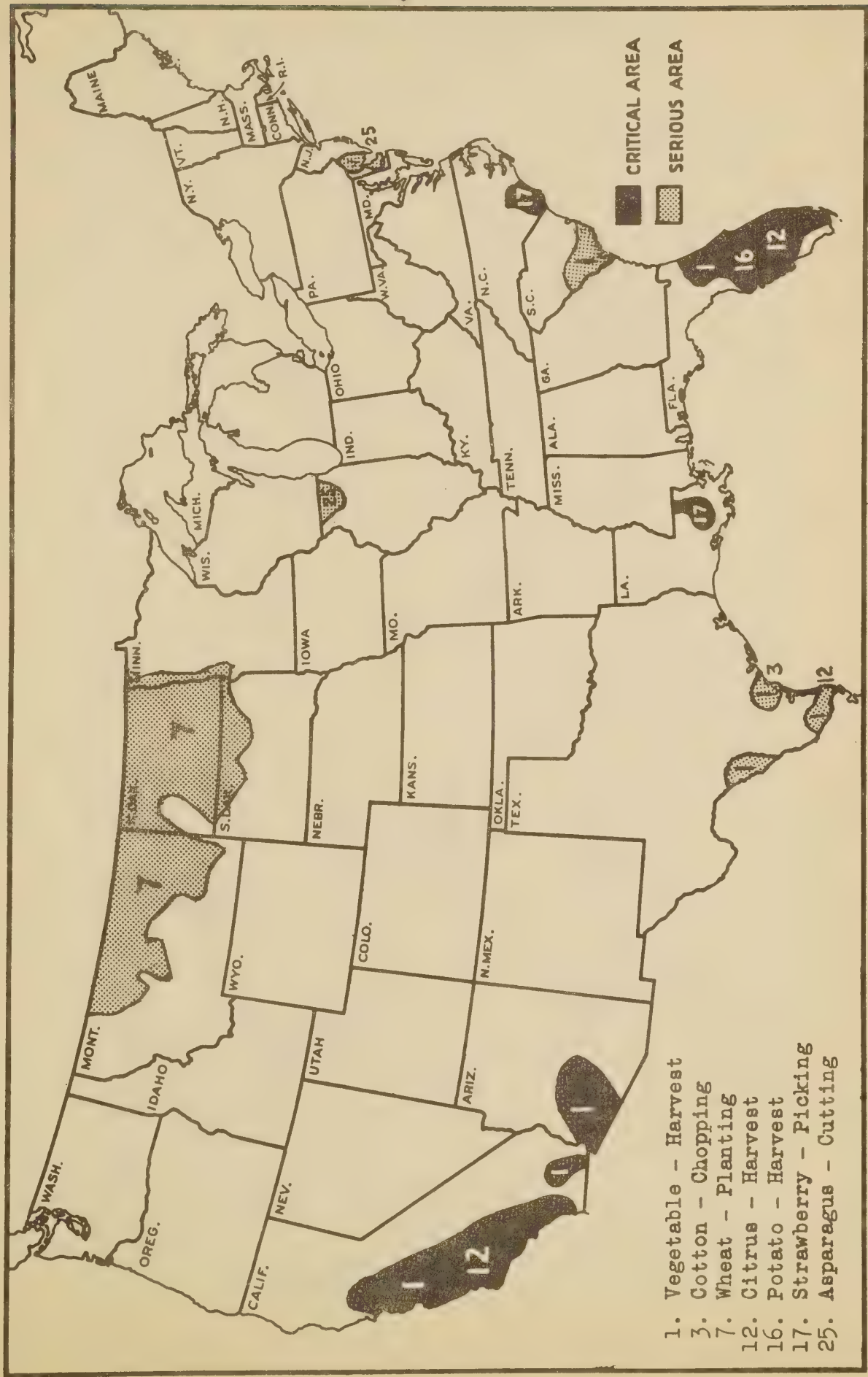
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# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

April 1944





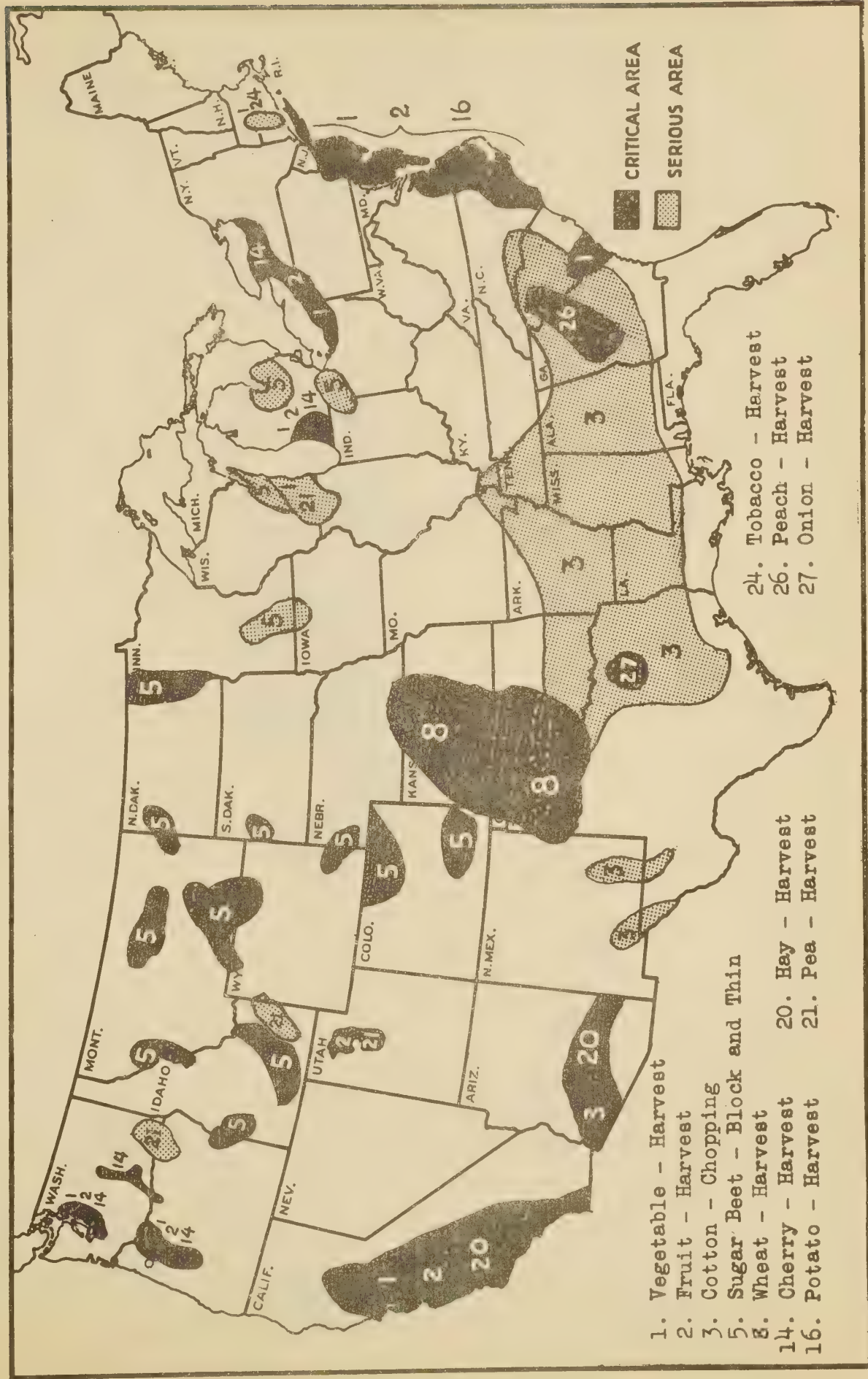
## May 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

June 1944





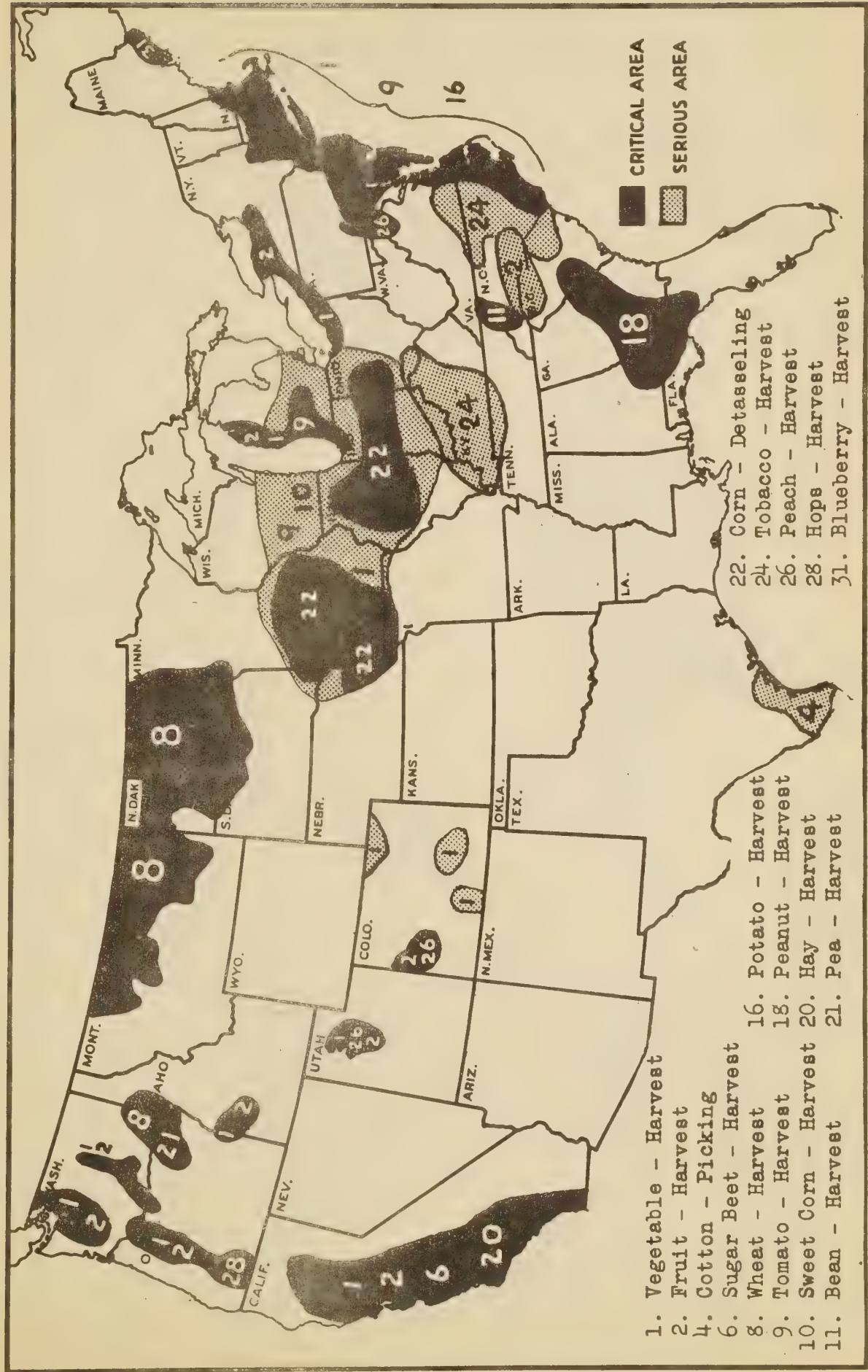
July 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

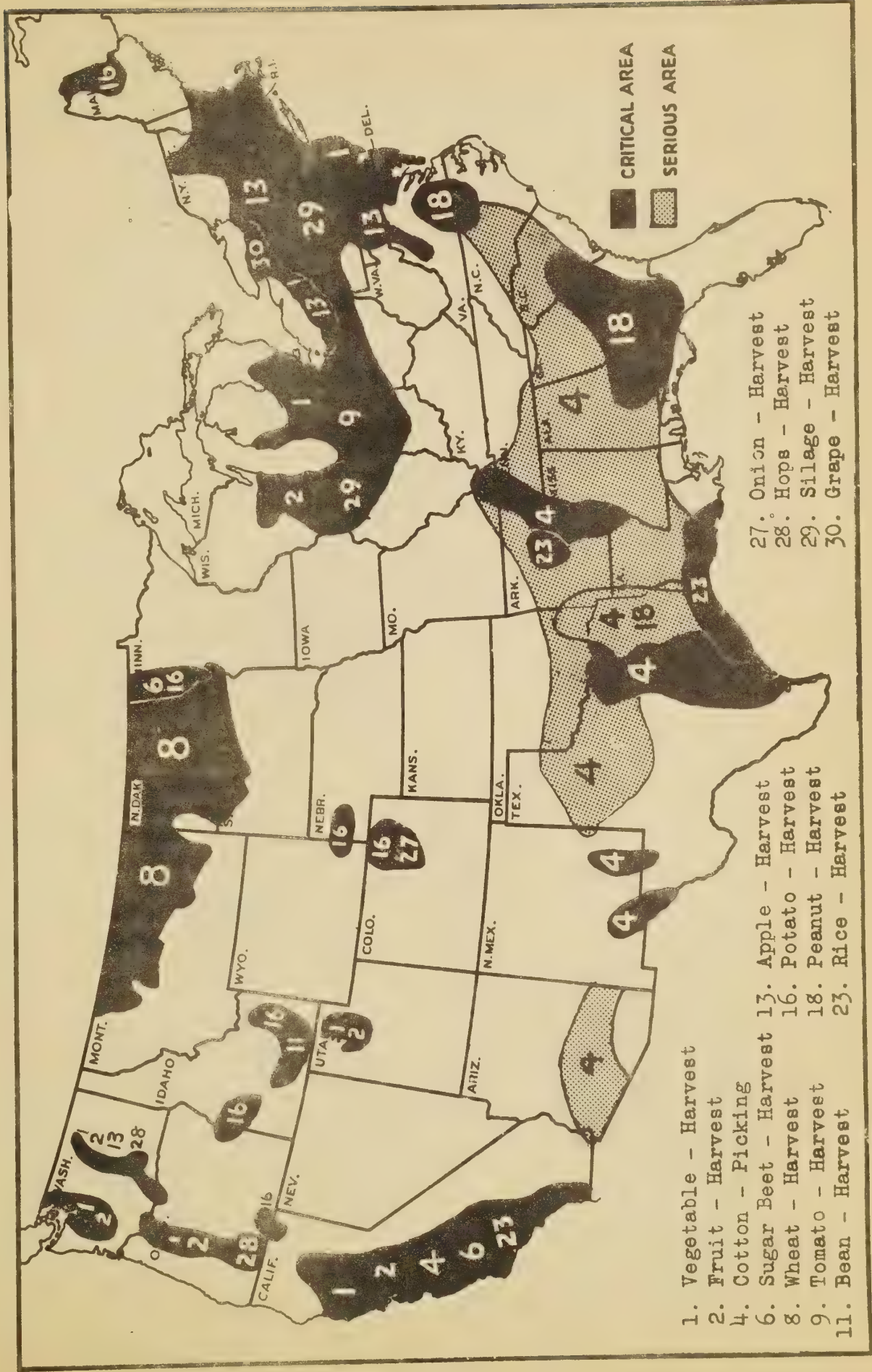
August 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

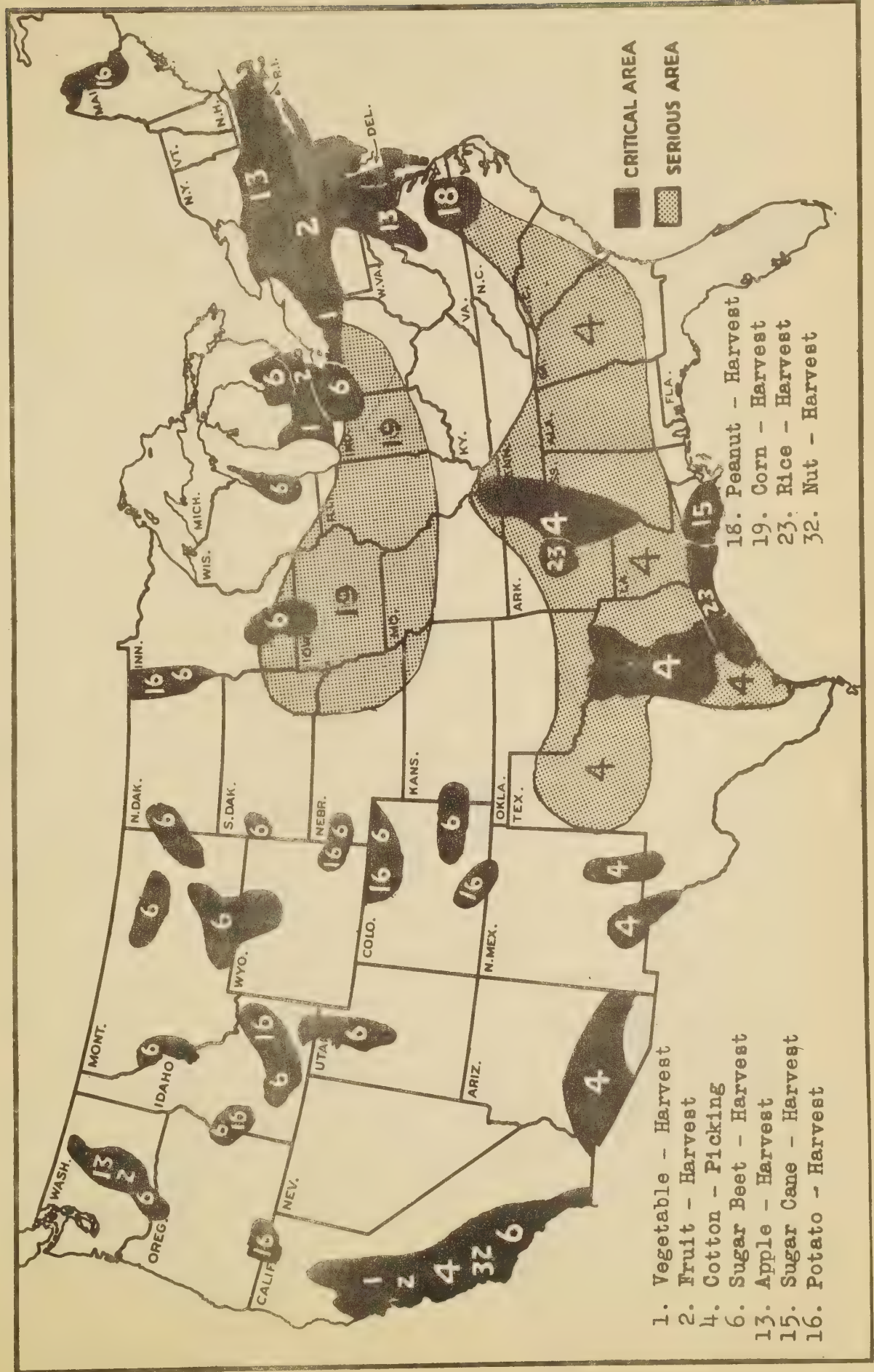
September 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

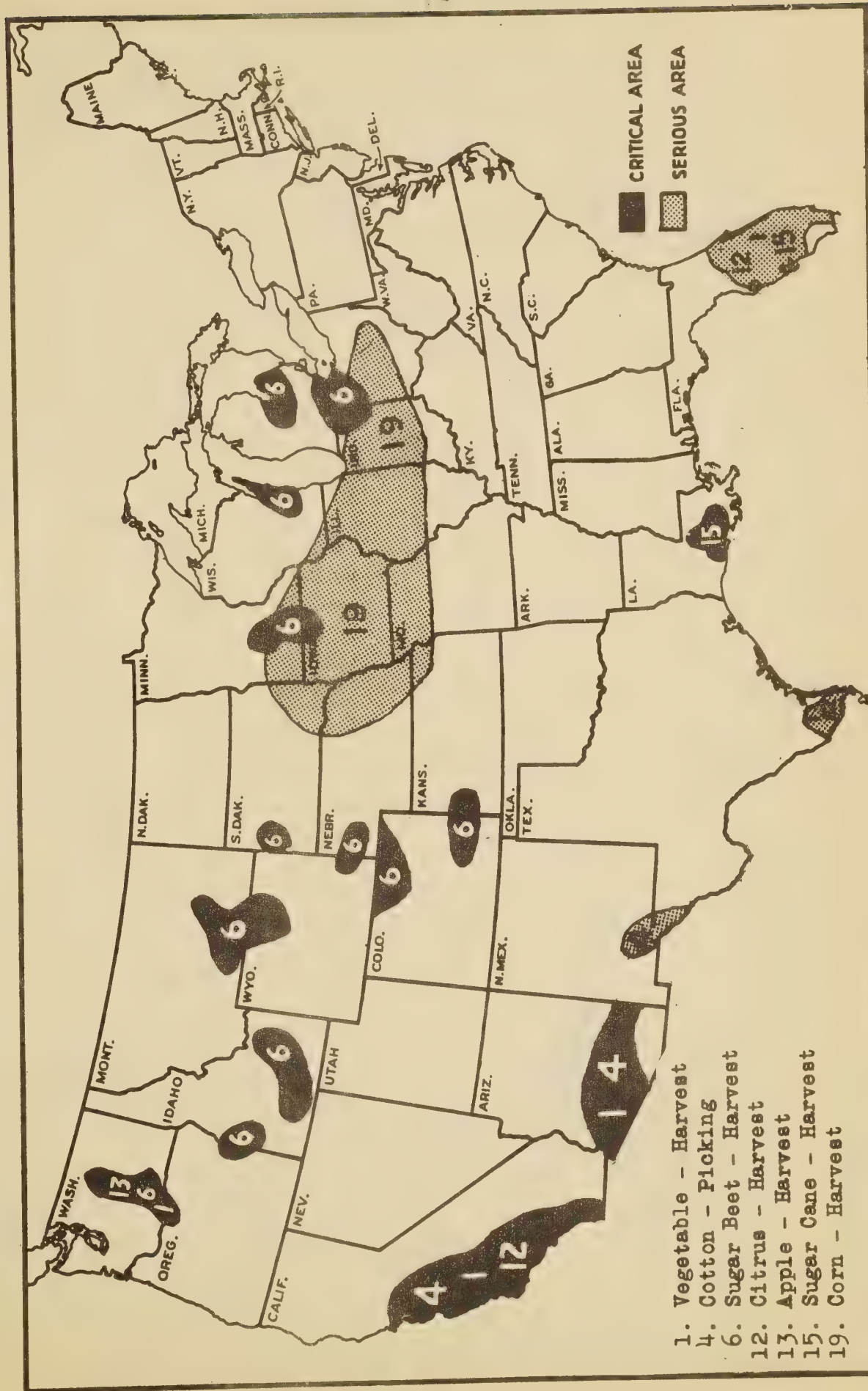
October 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

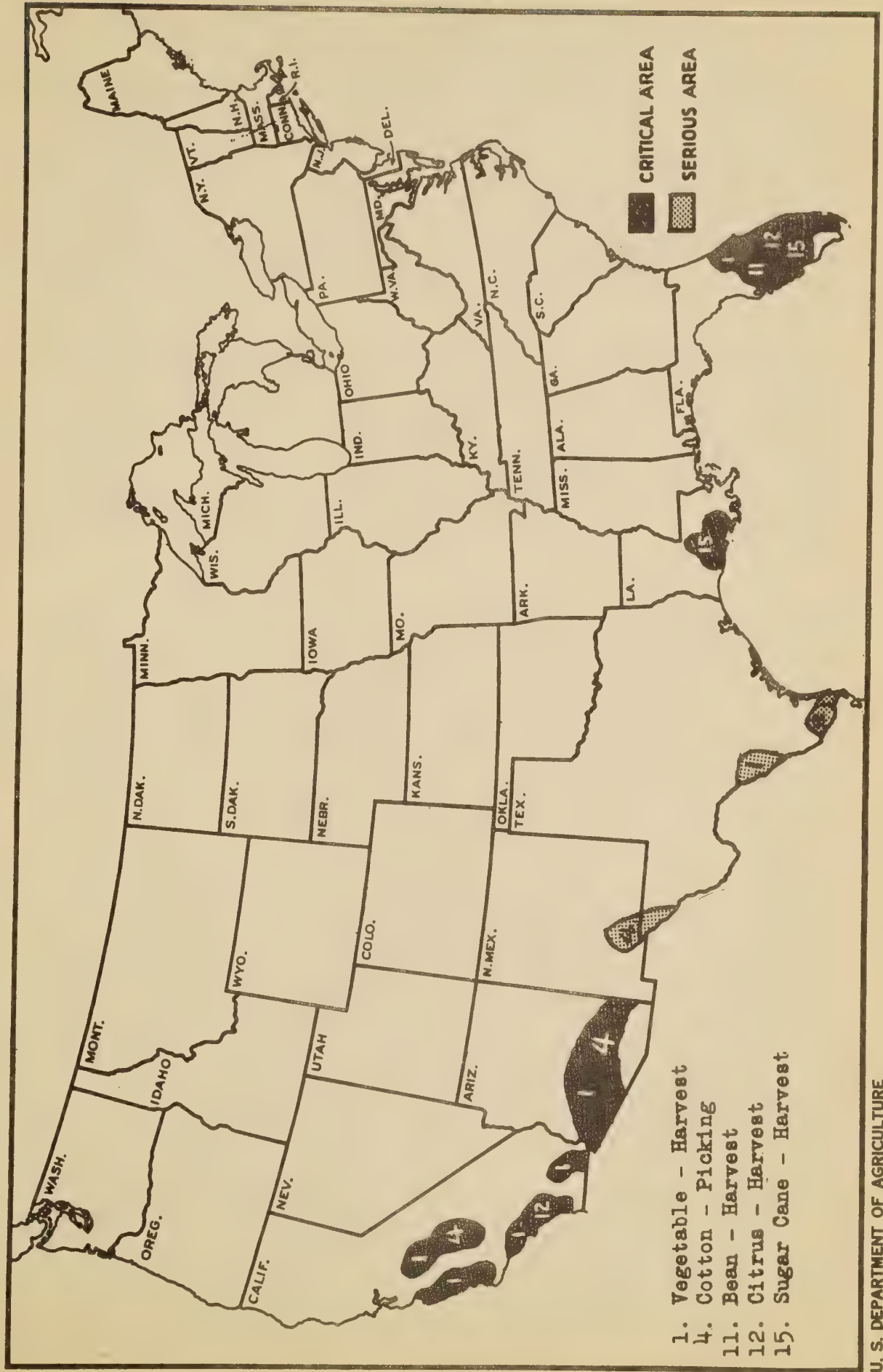
## November 1944





# AREAS REQUIRING MOBILIZATION OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

December 1944





Vegetables are among the principal foods needed for our armed forces and our allies, as well as for our civilian population. Their production is one of the vital wartime jobs being done by American farmers at this time. Harvesting of vegetables presents one of the main farm labor problems, since such a large amount of hand labor is required. However, in the case of tomatoes (9),<sup>2/</sup> beans (11), asparagus (25), onions (27), and other miscellaneous vegetables (1), much of the harvest work can be done by women and youngsters. Each year these two groups furnish an increasingly larger percentage of the labor for vegetable harvest, as more and more men are drawn into the armed services or war industries. Most of these harvesting operations are relatively simple.

The same is true of most fruits (2), including apples (13), cherries (14), strawberries (17), peaches (26), grapes (30), blueberries (31), and nuts (32). Generally speaking, most of the fruit harvest operations can be done by women and youth. Some farmers have found that women can do an even better job of harvesting, since they are more likely to handle the fruit carefully and thus prevent bruising. Most of these operations are simple ones requiring the picking of fruit from trees or vines. Picking citrus fruit (12) is heavy work usually done by men.

Some women and youth are used during the spring months in cotton chopping (3), which is done by hand with a hoe. It involves a thinning out of the young plants so that those left will have more room to grow, as well as removing weeds and grass. Many more women and youth are used in cotton picking (4), which requires large numbers of workers during the fall months. Picking of cotton from the bolls requires no experience, but maximum speed can be attained only after long practice.

#### HEAVIER WORK FOR MEN

On the other hand, work with sugar beets and sugarcane is man's work. Sugar-beet blocking and thinning (5) comes during the summer months and consists of thinning-out the plants so that those left in the ground may have more room to grow. The sugar-beet harvest (6) occurs during the fall months, frequently under unfavorable weather conditions. The harvesting of beets requires cutting off the tops and roots. In some areas, a good many women and youth have done some of the heavy sugar-beet work, but this is usually done by men. In harvesting cane, the stalks not only must be cut off just above the ground, but the tops of the stalks also must be cut and the leaves stripped off. Harvesting of both beets and cane requires a large amount of hand labor, with many weary hours for the worker.

Wheat planting (7) is done mechanically in the major wheat areas, but requires some men in addition to the regular farm labor force. Wheat harvest (8) is also a mechanical operation, but requires much additional labor to supplement the regular farm labor force. Adult male

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<sup>2/</sup> Numbers in parentheses indicate crop regions shown on maps.

workers are required for most of the wheat harvest operations, but some women are now being used for driving tractors, shocking bundles, and similar work. The wheat harvest created one of the main farm labor problems in 1943, and a large number of out-of-State workers had to be brought in to help with the harvest in North and South Dakota.

Rice harvest (23) is very similar to the wheat harvest, being a mechanical operation but requiring much extra labor. Men are required for most of the rice harvest work.

In many areas, especially the Midwest, much of the corn harvesting (19) and silage making (29) is a mechanical operation. However, in other areas, corn and silage are harvested largely by hand. This is hard work and can be done more efficiently by men. Sweet-corn harvesting (10) also, is rather hard work.

However, corn detasseling (22) is a job ideally suited to women and youth. It is hand work, and consists of going down certain rows in the field and removing the tassels from every stalk. The purpose is to prevent self-pollination in order to produce hybrid seed corn, which normally results in a much larger yield when planted the following year. Corn detasseling is a comparatively simple job which inexperienced workers can do satisfactorily after brief instruction.

#### MUCH HAND LABOR

The potato harvest (16), which occurs during the fall in the leading potato areas, requires a large amount of hand labor. Potatoes are removed from the ground by mechanical means, but completion of the harvest process requires picking up the potatoes from the ground by hand and placing them in baskets and then in barrels or sacks. Women and youth can be adept at doing this part of the harvest operation, and these two groups furnish many workers for this highly seasonal job. Handling of the barrels or sacks, of course, is done by men. In Maine, Idaho, and other leading potato States, the harvest occurs so late in the season that heavy loss from freezing is a danger unless adequate labor is available when the potatoes are ready for harvest.

Production of peanuts (18) is concentrated in three separate areas of the South, the largest acreage being in the Southeast. Peanuts are dug from the ground by mechanical means, but much hand labor is necessary in shaking the dirt from the peanuts and in placing the vines in stacks. Peanuts are usually left in the stacks about 6 weeks before the nuts are removed from the vines by a mechanical peanut picker. The heaviest labor needs, however, are in the first operation of shaking and stacking the peanuts, for which women and youth can be used.

Harvesting of hay (20) and peas (21) is heavy work that requires additional labor. Some women and youth can be used in certain phases of the work, depending upon the method used.

Tobacco harvesting (24) is handled in some areas by the regular farm labor force, which includes women and youngsters. In other areas, extra workers are required, and some non-farm women and youth are employed in the tobacco harvest.

Another farm labor job done largely by women and youth is picking hops (28). This is a simple operation and is comparatively light work. Most of the hops are grown in Oregon and California, and are harvested during the late summer and early fall.

# # #

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The material in this booklet was prepared cooperatively by the Extension Service, the Office of Labor, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. All farm labor needs are estimates, based on past experience plus a knowledge of the job to be done in 1944.

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